

Many residents of Saint Paul would travel by lake steamer to shop in White Bear Lake, stopping through Birchwood on the way to collect passengers. The summer residents and permanent villagers relied on local farmers for much of their fresh produce and milk, as the small village was home to only one small grocery store. Many improvements came to the area in the 1950s, including water, gas and sewer service as well as blacktopped roads, a trajectory that led to an increase in permanent residents rather than summer vacationers, and which led the village to officially be designated as the City of Birchwood Village in 1974.

The historic Birchwood Village Hall was built in the early 1930's to use as a community building and for other town business, and the city council still holds all of their official meetings there today. The building, which is now the only nonresidential structure left in the town, underwent a renovation in the 1970's and 1980's that including an additional room and new siding, covering the original modernist-style design of Saint Paul architect Magnus Jemne. Then, in the spring of 2021, restoration crews discovered that the original vertical virgin-timber siding was still there in remarkable shape, and the village hall was restored to its original design, just in time for the centennial celebration this fall.

The village is led today by long-time resident Mayor Mary Wingfield, who has served in the role for over a decade and has eliminated the town of debt among many other accomplishments. With a population under 1,000, residents take great pride in their storied history and the neighborly atmosphere that has encouraged people to call Birchwood Village home for the past century and is sure to continue to do so for the next 100 years. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognition of the centennial anniversary of incorporation of Birchwood Village.

THORNTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Thornton Fire Department in Thornton Colorado for earning the 2021 Congressional Fire Service Institute's Masimo Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award, which is given annually to the top fire department in the country.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Thornton Fire Department has gone above and beyond to serve their community. As part of their efforts, they created a Pandemic Response Team that has conducted over 20,000 COVID tests for public employees, senior citizens, first responders, and other community members. When vaccines became available, the Pandemic Response Team expanded their services to administer over 80,000 vaccinations at drive-thru sites for city employees and other members of the community. The Pandemic Response Team's success has led other fire agencies from around the country to look to Thornton as a model for how to effectively respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a very difficult year for fire and emergency services, the Thornton Fire Depart-

ment's innovative approach to a rapidly changing public health crisis has been crucial in saving lives and protecting the broader Thornton community. I extend my deepest appreciation to the first responders of the Thornton Fire Department for their dedication and outstanding service to their community.

BLINKEN SHOULD RESIGN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD my remarks from the Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on September 13, 2021.

I am grateful last Monday, September 13th, that there was a bi-partisan zoom appearance of Antony Blinken provided by Chairman GREG MEEKS and Republican Leader MIKE MCCAUL. Mr. Blinken sadly revealed he is disconnected from reality of threats to American families at home as I cited in my opening statement:

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Sir, in my service on the Foreign Affairs committee, the Global Terrorism subcommittee, the Armed Services committee, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and the Helsinki Commission, I have always been impressed by American foreign service diplomats worldwide. Their dedication to service is inspiring. That is why I am shocked at your actions superseding military advice, leading to surrender in Afghanistan to be a safe haven for murderous terrorists. Biden-Harris have opened the Southern Border, stopping the wall of President Donald Trump. This allows identified terrorists of the Terror Watch List to enter American neighborhoods as lone-wolf suicide bombers to murder as many Americans as possible. In American History, American families have never been at greater risk of attack at home than today, as the Global War on Terrorism is not over, it has moved from abroad to American homes.

As the grateful father of an Afghanistan veteran, I especially see your actions as indefensible. With 12 visits by me across Afghanistan to thank S.C. Army National Guard troops, the 218th Brigade, commanded by General Bob Livingston, I know firsthand they appreciated serving with their Afghan brothers. I saw the U.S. Agency for International Development's success in building schools, agricultural advances, hospitals, roads, and bridges.

My beliefs have been expressed by the New York Post Editorial Board on September 1st.

Sadly, the advanced military equipment left to the terrorists is comparable to all equipment provided by America to Israel since 1948, including drones that are a threat to Americans. The countries who have suffered the most Islamic extremist terrorist attacks—India, Israel, and America are endangered. They shout, Death to America, Death to Israel.

We must never forget the May 8th bombing in Kabul where Islamic extremist terrorists slaughtered over 80 innocent young girls. You should have changed course on this gruesome, revealing fact alone. The murderers of that attack now will have safe haven to target American families at home.

Your bizarre abandoning of Bagram Airfield led directly to 13 Marines murdered in Kabul. You should resign. I yield back.

IN RECOGNITION OF 80 YEARS OF MESSIAS TEMPLE CHURCH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Messiah Temple Church located in Ypsilanti, Michigan on the occasion of their 80th anniversary. For the past eight decades, this church has been the embodiment of faith and service. Their commitment to serving the Ypsilanti community in the past, present, and future is worthy of commendation.

Formed in 1940, a vision inspired Elder John T. Elders and Sister Laura Elders to create a sanctuary for the people of Ypsilanti. They began holding prayer meetings in a wooded area they named Messiah Grove at the corner of Monroe and Hawkins and later in the home of the Barfields until they moved into their first church building on Monroe Street in 1941. Faithfulness, dedication, service, and spreading the word is what this church has focused on since their founding. Today, the vision of the Elders lives on through Bishop Harry Grayson, as he has led the Messiah Temple congregation in faith and service for the past thirty years.

In the years since that first meeting, Messiah Temple Church has grown tremendously, and the church is known as a place where warmth, compassion, support, and fellowship will always be found. The congregation's charitable work has sustained those in their time of need. The "We Care We Share" outreach ministry provides hot meals and clothing for those in need. Through this program they have served over ten thousand neighbors. Additionally, they host a food pantry and run programs for local youth and families. Even when faced with challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, this congregation has never faltered in their commitment to serving the people of the community and ensuring that they are taken care of. Their dedication to carrying out the teachings of their church is unparalleled.

The Messiah Temple Church has positively impacted the lives of so many through their outreach and for that we are grateful. The church has been under the steadfast leadership of Bishop Harry Grayson since 1991 and has only grown since then. Their ministry reaches not only across Ypsilanti, but around the globe. Those who know the spirit of Bishop Grayson know his compassion, wisdom, and tireless devotion to our community and to the faith that drives him as a servant of God.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Messiah Temple Church for their 80 years of faith and service. Please join me in congratulating Bishop Grayson and the entire Messiah Temple congregation on eight faithful decades and in wishing them the best of luck in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed the vote on Tlaib